

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and 9-17 are pending in the present application. By this reply, claims 7 and 8 have been cancelled. Claims 1 and 9 are independent.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant acknowledges the Examiner's indication that claims 1, 3-6, 9, 11-12 and 15-17 are allowed over the prior art of record. The Examiner has also indicated that claims 2, 8, 10, 13 and 14 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to address 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph concerns.

Without acquiescing to any of the Examiner's allegations made in rejecting these claims, to expedite prosecution only, claims 2, 10, 13 and 14 have been amended to address the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph concerns in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions. Claims 7 and 8 have been cancelled. Accordingly, all of the presently pending claims are either allowed or allowable over the prior art of record, thereby placing the application in condition for allowance.

35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph Rejection

Claims 2, 8, 10, 13 and 14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. These claims have been reviewed and revised or cancelled to address the Examiner's concerns in accordance with the Examiner's suggested manner. Thus, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejection

Claim 7 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Möhlenkamp et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,178,374). Claim 7 is further rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Andrew et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,711,493).

Without acquiescing to any of the Examiner's allegations made in rejecting this claim, to expedite prosecution only, claim 7 has been cancelled, thereby rendering the rejections moot. Accordingly, the rejections should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons and in view of the above clarifying amendments, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw all of the objections and rejections of record, and to provide an early issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters which need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Esther H. Chong (Registration No. 40,953) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

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Docket No.: 3449-0300P

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and further replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

Esther H. Chong

Registration No.: 40,953

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

8110 Gatehouse Rd

Suite 100 East

P.O. Box 747

Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747

(703) 205-8000

Attorney for Applicant